

From the descriptions of the journey left by Fathers Francisco An-tanasio Dominguez and Silvestre Velez de Escalante, the group is believed to have traveled along the Strawberry, through Diamond Fork into Spanish Fork Canyon and then to the shores of Utah Lake.

Between this visit in the summer of 1776 and the beginnings of settlements in 1858 only hunters and trappers frequented the area in search of beaver and mink. Often they followed the trails and foot-paths worn into the earth by Indians.

The settlers who moved into Wasatch County and claimed its land were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their settlements near the Great Salt Lake, as well as subsequent colonizing efforts in outlying areas, were not chance events.

Persecution and misunderstanding had forced members of the Church to leave their homes and community life in Nauvoo, Ill., the place which the saints called their "City Beautiful." Through the vision and leadership of President Brigham Young, the pioneering members of the Church trudged thousands of weary miles from Illinois, across the plains states, and into the Rocky Mountains. The first company entered the Salt Lake valley on July 24, 1847.

In the mountain country, which they named the Territory of Deseret, the industrious pioneers turned water onto the parched, desert soil and fruitful fields resulted. Timber and stone were taken from the surrounding hills to erect homes and church buildings. An active commerce grew up that made the area the literal crossroads of the west.

As the central settlement of Salt Lake City became established, President Young encouraged the saints to colonize the outlying areas of the Territory. The new settlements strengthened the territory, broadened the influence of the Church and opened up new farmlands for the thousands of Saints who were arriving in the area each month.

During the first decade of colonizing, President Young called settlers to move into southern and northern parts of the territory. Major settlements were established in St. George in the south, Manti and Provo in the central area and Logan and Cache Valley in the north.

In the Provo area, settlers began moving in about 1849. The city grew until about 1857 when some of the townspeople felt that all the choice land had been claimed. Newly arrived settlers began looking toward "greener pastures" on the other side of the Wasatch Mountains.

One summer Sunday morning in 1857 a group of workmen at a sawmill in Big Cottonwood Canyon, southeast of the Salt Lake Valley, decided to spend the day looking at the rumored "paradise land" nestled in the tops of the Wasatch range. The men, Charles N. Carroll, George Jacques, James Adams and others, hiked to the summit of the range and brought back glowing reports of a desirable agricultural valley.

Rumors still existed that there was frost in the valley during every month of the year. However, the favorable reports of the sawmill workers, and others, made many people anxious to settle in the area. Thus

it was that during the Spring of 1858 a group of cattlemen in Provo drove a herd of stock through the canyon and established some ranches at the south end of the valley. Those in the group included William Wall, George W. Dean, Aaron Daniels and a few others. With an eye toward keeping their cattle in the valley during the winter these men harvested a large crop of meadow hay.

During the Spring and Summer of 1858 a number of persons explored the area and decided it would be a satisfactory place to settle.

The first steps toward settlement came in July, 1858, when a party headed by J. W. Snow, county surveyor in Provo, went to the valley and laid out a section of ground just north of the present site of Heber City. Twenty-acre tracts were surveyed and each man in the party selected his farm.

Having decided to settle in the valley, the men turned their attention to the feasibility of constructing a road through Provo Canyon. As early as 1852, an explorer, William Gardner, had recommended that such a road be constructed. Then in 1855 the Territorial Legislature enacted a measure empowering Aaron Johnson, Thomas S. Williams, Evan M. Green and William Wall to construct a road from the mouth of Provo Canyon in Utah County to the Kamas prairie. From there it was to travel northeasterly on the most feasible route until it intercepted the main traveled road from the United States to Great Salt Lake, near Black Fork in Green River county.

Unfortunately, this road was never begun. Misunderstandings with federal officials resulted in the appointment of Alfred Cumming as the territorial governor in 1857. He was escorted into the Utah territory by federal troops commanded by Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston. The presence of federal troops gave the Mormon people more to think about than building the road.

By mid-1858, however, the troops were peacefully garrisoned at Camp Floyd near Utah Lake and the Mormon people had returned to normal living.

With cattle grazing on the Wasatch lands, and with ranch sites already surveyed, the need for a road again became an issue of primary importance. To win support for the project, a group of Provo men took the matter to President Brigham Young and explained both the hardships and the advantages of building such a road. The Church President favored the project and called a meeting in the bowery at Provo on June 6, 1858. He said at that time:

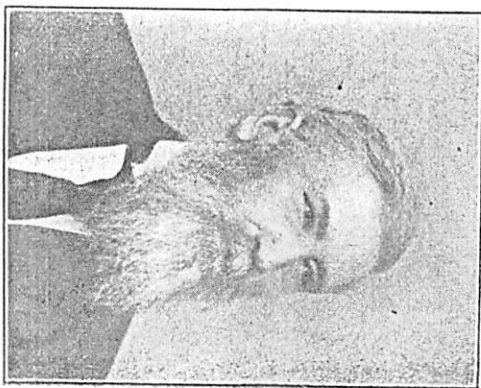
"A road up Provo Canyon is much needed, and we want ten or twenty companies of laborers to go on it forthwith in order to finish it in about fifteen days so that you can go into the valleys of the Weber where there is plenty of timber.

"I understand that a company has been chartered by the legislative assembly to make that road. If those men will come forward we will take the responsibility of making it. We shall need about 500 laborers."

was appointed captain. On reaching the Valley he located at what was then called South Willow-Creek, now Draper, Salt Lake county. In October, 1856, he was set apart to act as Bishop of Draper Ward, in which capacity he served faithfully until his death, which occurred at Draper March 15, 1880. In 1856 he married Elizabeth White and Emma Lloyd, with whom he had a large family, being the father of twenty children and having eighty grandchildren. Thirteen of his children are now living. They are: James Z. Stewart of Logan; Isaac J. Stewart of Richfield; Joshua B. Stewart, William M. Stewart, Samuel W. Stewart, Charles B. Stewart, Barnard J. Stewart, all of Salt Lake City; Mary Ann Ballantyne, Logan; Alice C. Stringfellow, Draper; Elizabeth Fife, Ogden; Eliza J. Fife, Salt Lake City; Luella E. Lindsay, Montpelier, Idaho, and Nettie P. Stewart, Salt Lake City. Bishop Stewart served three successive terms (nine years) as county selectman of Salt Lake county, and was prominently associated with Judge Elias Smith, Bishop Reuben Miller, Jesse W. Fox and Bishop Archibald Gardner, in the construction of the various canals taken from the Jordan river in the southern part of Salt Lake county. He was strong and energetic in mind and body and had a progressive disposition, always taking an active interest in education. It was largely through his influence that Dr. John R. Park was employed and retained in educational work in Utah. Bishop Stewart was a typical example of a sturdy pioneer, honest and upright in every particular. His life and interests were centered in his religious faith.

COMER, George, a prominent Elder in Lehi, Utah county, Utah, was born Oct. 17, 1830, at Farrington, Gurney, Somersetshire, England. At the age of 16 years he moved to South Wales, where he followed the pursuit of mining for nineteen years, during which time he was a victim of a number of explosions. In the year 1850 he was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church, and two years later married Mary Ann Smith. Oct. 29, 1854, he was ordained a Teacher; June 3, 1855, he was ordained a Priest, and in April, 1857, he was ordained an Elder. During the first ten years of his

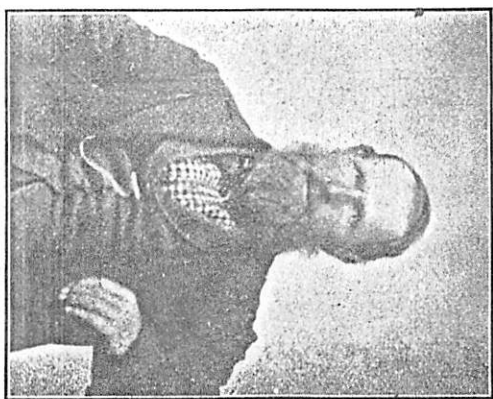
membership in the Church he labored very energetically as a local missionary. He emigrated to Utah in 1856, settling in Lehi, his present home, where he has followed the vocation of farming and stock-raising. Bro. Comer assisted in the construction of the Provo Bench canal; was a sub-contractor on the Union Pacific and Utah Central railroads and also quarried rock for the Provo Woolen Mills. In early days he was a member of the Nauvoo Legion. He was ordained a Seventy Jan. 31, 1872, and from 1881 to 1895 he was engaged almost incessantly as a missionary, first as a missionary in the Southern States, later as a home missionary and still later (1881-82) as a missionary in England. He is a member of the Genealogical Society of Utah.



and has already on record at the Temple 1,122 names. Elder Comer has been an ardent worker in the Lehi Sunday school for over thirty years and is the father of 12 children; he also has 48 grandchildren. He has now passed the 71st mile-stone of his life's journey, and still bears a strong and faithful testimony to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as taught by the Latter-day Saints. For the past twenty years he has had charge of the baptisms in Lehi, having officiated in that ordinance for hundreds of people.

SNOW, James Chaney, president of the Utah (or Provo) Stake of Zion from 1853 to 1858, was born Jan. 11, 1817, in the town of Chesterfield, Cheshire

county, New Hampshire, son of Gardner Snow and Sarah Hasting. He was reared from a child, eighteen months old, to manhood in the State of Vermont. He was baptized into the Church Oct. 19, 1833, was ordained a Teacher June 23, 1834, and ordained a Priest Nov. 29, 1834. In the year 1836 he filled a mission to the New England States, where he baptized many, among whom Elizabeth Cluff and Lucy Smith. April 20, 1837, he received a patriarchal blessing in the Kirtland Temple under the hands of Patriarch Joseph Smith. In 1838 he married Eliza Ann Carter at Kirtland, Ohio, and with his wife he traveled to Missouri in the Kirtland camp; thence went to Illinois and settled in Nauvoo, where he became a member of the Nauvoo Legion.



May 17, 1844, he left his home in Illinois to go on a special mission, on which he was instructed also to electioneer for Joseph Smith, who was a candidate for the presidency of the United States. A response to this call required a great sacrifice on Elder Snow's part as his family, consisting of a wife and four children, were in poor circumstances; they had not even flour in the house at the time, but his wife told him to go and do his duty, and God would provide; and so he did. Elder Snow arrived at Madison, Ind., June 24, 1844, after walking 52 miles. At that place he was joined by Dominicus Carter; and the two Elders started out together without purse or scrip, and God

blessed them. On the 27th of June, the very day on which Joseph and Hyrum Smith were martyred, Elder Snow was preaching at Milroy, Rush county, Ind. After the martyrdom the Elders went fort to comfort the Saints in the freshness of their grief over their martyred Prophets. Bro. Snow, together with other missionaries, was called home shortly after the martyrdom, and he was present at the meeting when the mantle of Joseph fell upon Brigham Young—an event of which he often testified afterwards. Together with his family he left Nauvoo in 1846, to go to the Valleys of the Mountains. They remained at Council Bluffs until 1852, when they started across the plains, with Brother Snow as captain of the company. After enduring the hardships and privations of a long and toilsome journey they arrived in Salt Lake City Oct. 9, 1852. Later in the fall Brother Snow and family moved to Provo, Utah county, and in 1853 he was appointed president of the Utah Stake of Zion, which position he held until 1858, when he resigned. In the spring of 1857 he accompanied the first Presidency on a mountain trip through northern Utah and into Oregon. Elder Snow held many responsible civil positions in the community. Thus he served as a member of the Utah legislature in 1856, and was appointed United States deputy marshal in 1853. In 1858 he was elected surveyor of Utah county; and he was re-elected to that position in 1860. In the fall of 1868 he moved to southern Utah, where he remained till 1880, when he located at Pottsville, where he died April 30, 1884, aged 67 years, 3 months and 19 days. His body was taken to Mantu for interment. Elder Snow was loved and respected by all who knew him and remained firm and faithful in the Church till the last. He was the father of twenty children.

BERG, Ole Hendrikson, a High Councilor, in the Utah Stake of Zion, was born in Smaalenene, Smaalenenes amt, Norway. When fifteen years old he moved to Christiansa, where he learned the cabinet maker's trade. He was baptized into the Church in October, 1861, and soon afterwards ordained to the Priesthood, and sent to Odalen, Kongsvinger and Solør, to labor as a missionary. Subsequently, he was or-